

SAM LEEVER IS PEER OF 'EM ALL

(Continued From First Page.)

Blair "Dutch clock," granting one pass per game and not making a wild pitch. Along toward the last of August, Pittsburgh took him on, let him hold down a nice seat on a hard bench for a few weeks studying how the "big leaguers" played the game, how the big fellows swatted the ball and how the "big hurlers" stopped them—sometimes.

On the 25th day of October, 1893, Samuel W. Leever pitched his first full game in the National League. "Twas more than a full game, it developed and devolved into a fierce eleven inning affair, ending a tie with a 2 to 2 score. The Louisville team was his opponent, securing but five scattering hits of the Indiana schoolmaster. He came through the crucial test with flying colors.

His next game was against Cleveland, then one of the twelve clubs that made up the big National that year. Leever held his foe down to three singles and one run, completely baffling the Cleveland hitters. After this clever exhibition of his skill, expert critics and fans alike pronounced Samuel W. Leever a pitcher with all the qualifications and symptoms of a coming great.

1899 saw Leever right in the thick of the battle, working in thirty-six regulation games, and landing a winner in over half of them. His twirling, generally speaking, was good, at times brilliant.

From 1900 until he closed his long career, with the Pittsburgh club, he ranked high in his percentage of wins. His record made in 1903 goes down in baseball history as one of the best, not losing a game in the last thirteen.

He pitched three shutout games in succession, and by leading all pitchers in the National in games won, he had his name inscribed in the mythical Hall of Fame. Again in 1905 he added another niche in that misty, mazy fairyland hall of yesterday.

Perhaps Leever's percentage of wins for all time is a world's record. His percentage of wins stands 692 for his entire career. This has anything but a rest in the major leagues since the modern game has come into vogue. It is a proud distinction. Of course, records show where a few hurlers that have worked just a few years have this topped, but none has worked five years or over with a better record.

Ed Reulbach, with all his erratic ways, his exhibitions of wildness that would put most wild men to shame, stands out with a total percentage of wins that almost equals the only Leever's. For eight seasons Reulbach's wins stand 687. Samuel has put in thirteen seasons.

When Samuel began his work for Pittsburgh in 1899 on the pitching staff were two men who had been pitching ball when Samuel was in swaddling clothes—when he was a mere infant. These chaps were pitching, or at least one of them, was hurling flint-pointed javelins away back in the "stone age."

Sam was a good listener, and the stories of past experiences told by these two grizzled warriors were solemnly swallowed and slowly digested, but the fine points of their experiences were not lost on Sam. "Billie" Hart and "Billy" Blaines were the ancients of the ancients, and Samuel Leever was a guileless youth, a strapping compared to those two.

But as time rolled by, Samuel W. was the veteran and historian of the team—the dean of the pitching staff. This role he shared with his somber partner, "Deacon" Phillips. These two staunch old oaks saw the coming and going of many an aspirant for honors in the pitching line, saw them sweep in, hailed as world-beaters, as stars of the first magnitude. These two grim warriors stood silently by and saw the young phenoms explode, collapse and chased to the timbers, to be buried in the swale holes the bush leagues.

Entire Record.

Year	Club	G.	B.H.	S.O.	P.C.
1897	Richmond	36	280	167	.571
1898	Richmond	18	110	58	.841
1899	Pittsburgh	2	8	5	.1000
1899	Pittsburgh	36	281	163	.514
1900	Pittsburgh	22	132	68	.681
1901	Pittsburgh	17	141	63	.765
1902	Pittsburgh	24	136	82	.737
1903	Pittsburgh	30	219	85	.826
1904	Pittsburgh	31	220	62	.886
1905	Pittsburgh	27	165	77	.777
1906	Pittsburgh	25	136	83	.809
1907	Pittsburgh	23	140	69	.609
1908	Pittsburgh	22	164	33	.852
1909	Pittsburgh	11	71	30	.815
1910	Pittsburgh	11	64	26	.646
1911	Minneapolis	11	78	23	.629

Totals for fifteen seasons

*Fifteen tie games.

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